

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4-14, 17-28 are pending in the present application, Claims, 1, 4, 14, 17, 27, and 28 having been amended, and Claims 2, 3, 15, and 16 having been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Support for the amendments to Claim 1 is found, for example, in original Claim 3. Support for the amendments to Claims 14, 27, and 28 is found, for example, in original Claim 16. Claims 4 and 17 are amended to change dependency.

Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter is added and no new issues are raised.

Accordingly, this amendment after final should be entered.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 3-8, 10-14, 26-21, and 23-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Maniwa (U.S. Patent No. 5,933,584) in view of Moskowitz (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0010684); and Claims 9 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Maniwa in view of Moskowitz, and further in view of Pham (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0044857).

Applicant thanks the Examiners for the courtesy of an interview extended to Applicant's representative on January 24, 2006. During the interview, differences between the present invention and the applied art, and the rejections noted in the outstanding Office Action were discussed. The Examiners agreed that Maniwa and Moskowitz do not describe or suggest the elements of Claim 3. No agreement as to the allowability of the claims was reached.

With respect to the above-noted rejections, these rejections are now moot in light of the discussion with the Examiners on January 24, 2006 and the Examiners' admission that the cited references of Maniwa and Moskowitz do not describe or suggest the elements of Claim 3, now included in independent Claim 1 (and Claim 16, which is similar to Claim 3, and now

included in independent Claims 14, 27, and 28). Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that Pham does not cure the deficiencies in Maniwa and Moskowitz.

In addition, Applicant respectfully submits that Maniwa and Moskowitz do not describe or suggest the claimed “acquisition unit that acquires the software component selected by said selection unit and authentication information from said server” of Claim 1.

The outstanding Office Action relies on Moskowitz to disclose “authentication information for the acquired software component.”¹ According to the outstanding Office Action, the claimed “software component” equates to the job style file of Maniwa.²

Although Moskowitz discloses authentication generally, Moskowitz does not disclose the performance of authentication of a job style file, nor does Moskowitz disclose the performance of authentication as disclosed in the present invention. Furthermore, Maniwa’s job style file does not equate to the claimed “software component.”

In a non-limiting embodiment of the claimed invention, authentication processing is performed with a common encryption key. Fig. 8 shows a flow chart showing the processing sequence of the multifunction machine 10 when authentication is performed using a common encryption key.

Fig. 11 shows a conceptual diagram that explains the concept of how to perform authentication using a public key. As shown in Fig. 11, the multifunction machine 10 holds a public key of the machine development vendor within the ROM at the time it is shipped, and the server 20 of the machine development vendor (Fig. 12) holds data obtained by encrypting authentication information using the secret key with respect to the public key together with the software components.

Fig. 12 shows a conceptual diagram that explains the concept of how to perform authentication with a certificate. In Fig. 12, the multifunction machine 10 holds a public key

¹ Office Action, page 3.

² Office Action, page 3.

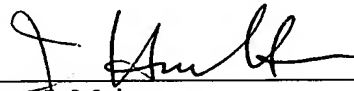
of the machine development vendor as certificate authority at the time of shipping, and the server 20, which discloses a software component, holds the certificate of the public key of the server issued by the machine development vendor (certificate authority). This certificate is encrypted by the secret key of the machine development vendor (certificate authority), and the server 20 attaches this encrypted certificate to the header of the authentication information.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 1 (and the other independent claims) further patentably distinguishes over Maniwa and Moskowitz, taken alone or in proper combination.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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